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TURKEY.

Report from Constantinople.

[Report No. 244.]

Sanitary news from Turkish provinces.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 25, 1900.

SIR: The sanitary news forwarded by the provincial sanitary authorities is not very tranquilizing. First. Bubonic plague, as already reported, broke out at Gulamber, on the Turco-Persian boundary line. Second. Said disease broke out at Yambo, in the Hedjaz, and the patient was a Soudanese coming from upper Egypt. Third. Bubonic plague is threatening the Yemen, spreading in Aden and in Lahaj, between Aden and the province of Yemen. I have the honor to forward a French copy of all the telegrams considering said sanitary condition.

Water supply in Djiddah.

The British, as well as the French and Dutch sanitary representatives have communicated to the superior sanitary commission, that in spite of the rainstorm which I mentioned in my last report, the city of Djiddah is without water. They ask the Ottoman government to provide for said necessity.

Bubonic plague in Assyria (Yemen).

The sanitary physician forwarded to Beni-Shekir in Yemen, where bubonic plague has broken out, reports that he has observed many cases of typhoid fever and only 2 cases of bubonic plague at Asfa near Beni-Shekir.

Other sanitary news.

The sanitary physician at Teheran reports that there is a widespread epidemic of influenza in said country and many cases of rheumatism. The sanitary physician at Dedeagatch reports that there is no more scarlet fever in said city, but there is, on the contrary an epidemic of measles, the character of which is mild. During the month of February, 5 deaths have been registered in Dedeagatch, of which 2 were from measles.

In Constantinople.

Influenza or la grippe is the prevailing disease in Constantinople. It is a widespread epidemic, and in many instances it presents itself with the symptoms of cerebro-spinal meningitis. It is of mild character. The same I must state for the epidemic of diphtheria which, as mentioned in my last report, is as wide-spread as the influenza. The number of deaths registered in Constantinople from the 2d to the 23d instant is 819, of which 1 was from diphtheria, 7 from measles, and 15 from typhoid fever. Among said 819 deaths, 100 were due to acute inflammatory diseases of the respiratory system.

Inclosures.

The inclosures which I have the honor to forward are:

No. 1, a French copy of the communication of the French sanitary representative concerning the existence of plague and cholera in Matrah (Arabia).

No. 2, a French copy of a telegram stating the good health at Mecca

and sanitary news from Kermashah about the bubonic plague at Djivanro.

No. 3, a French copy of the telegram announcing the appearance of bubonic plague at Yambo (Red Sea) giving at the same time the symptoms of the disease.

No. 4, a French copy of 2 dispatches 1 of which is concerning the epidemic of plague at Djivanro and second the sanitary condition of the Hedjaz.

No. 5, a French copy of a Tezkeré concerning the question of water supply in Djiddah.

No. 6, a French copy of a Tezkeré concerning the sanitary steps for the defense of the province of Yemen against Aden.

No. 7, a French copy of the decision taken by the superior sanitary commission by which Yambo is put under quarantine.

No. 8, a French copy of the decision taken by the superior sanitary commission inviting the Ottoman sanitary representative in Alexandria to do all he can to revoke the decision taken by the international sanitary commission of said place, which commission, in consequence of the bubonic plague cases observed in Yambo, has declared all the Hadj or pilgrimage, foul, and as a consequence the pilgrims coming back to the Mediterranean ports have to be subjected to ten and fifteen days' quarantine at El Tor.

No. 9, a French copy of the decision taken by the superior sanitary commission, concerning the defense by land on the Turco-Persian boundary line against the bubonic plague at Djivanro.

No. 10, a French copy of the epizootic bulletin.

Respectfully,

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,
United States Sanitary Commissioner.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[INCLOSURES TRANSLATED IN THIS BUREAU.]

No. 1.

Communications made by the delegate of France to the superior council of health, April 17, 1900.

[The vice-consul of France at Mascat to the minister of foreign affairs.]

MASCAT, March 10, 1900.

It now seems certain that plague is at Mattrah. It must have numbered 30 victims during the past fifteen days. Such at least is the statement of Dr. Jayaker. Two physicians, one Hindoo and the other Goanais, brought from India by Seyid Feysal, report in addition 4 plague deaths at Mattrah since March 7. The inhabitants still refuse to admit the existence of the disease. As mortality is always high at Mattrah at this season, their obstinacy in not believing in the presence of a plague epidemic is not unreasonable.

Every year during the months of January and February the periods of humid temperature tend to exceed in duration and intensity the periods of dry temperature. This year there was an exceptionally heavy rainfall. These conditions favor the outbreak of plague. But the heat has already commenced, the thermometer yesterday being 30° C. in the shade (85° F.) The "gharbie," a warm wind which often carries the temperature in the interior of houses to 45° C. during the night and dries up everything will soon begin to blow. The "gharbie" is the only agency that can be relied on to arrest the epidemic at Mattrah and prevent its gaining in Mattrah and spreading to the interior of Oman, for in spite of the arrival of the 2 physicians of the Sultan no serious measure has been taken up to this time to combat the epidemic. Mascat and Oman possess a Saharian climate in which the microbe of plague might have difficulty in finding lodgement.

Cholera in Oman.

At this time when plague has shown a tendency to establish itself in Oman it seems proper to show the route followed by cholera through the Sultanate in order to show the route likely to be taken by plague.

Cholera has spread from Kurrachee to Gwador and spread into Oman by way of Mattrah, which is a center of convergence for caravan routes and the port most frequented by small vessels of the coastwise trading class. The disease then traveled toward the interior, following the commercial routes as far as the most distant wadis (river valleys) and at the same time has progressed along the coast toward Sohar and the Rous-el-Jibal on one side and Mobat and Dhofoor on the other side. Thus the 2 provinces situated at the two extremities of the Sultanate have been the last, but not the least, severely attacked. From Dhofoor cholera is reported to have extended along the banks of the Hadramouth toward Aden. At the other extremity the epidemic has passed the Rous-el-Jibal and has entered upon the caravan route from Sohar to El Dreun and Abou-Dhabi, invading the pirate coast simultaneously by land and maritime routes.

No. 2.

Telegrams received by the Service.

DJIDDAH, April 12, 1900.

Feasts terminated. Health Mecca and Djiddah perfect.

Dr. POMPOURAS.

KERMASHAH, April 13, 1900.

Proceeded to Lalsnat. Entry to houses where there are no sick prohibited. Chief denied on my first visit before physician Kermashah. Malavouira inhabitants under tents. Change of place not allowed in any case. Last death forty-two days. Maraui 2 fatal cases coming from Lalsnat. Communication forbidden. Isolation absolute; do not believe further danger propagation after results of investigations village Kurdistan-Cavallario ordered to Gullamber four days ago. Will await orders Kermashah.

Dr. TACHDJIAN.

Telegram of Djiddah dated April 15, 1900.

Dr. Omer Danish reports 4 cases suspect plague, Yambo, March 28 and 30, 2 fatal. In all 4 cases observe intense fever, violent cephalalgia, eyes congested, tongue heavy, prostration, nasal hemorrhage, and buboes. First case Soudnese disembarked clandestinely, Omlich, by Sambouk, coming from Ebouchorac, a port in Upper Egypt. Health of Djiddah perfect.

Dr. POMPOURAS.

KERMASHAH, April 15, 1900.

Met physician sent to the spot. Agreed. In district Djivanro villages: Allayabad, inhabitants, 115, 52 cases, 27 deaths; Sefiabad, inhabitants, 200, 8 deaths; Harkalla, inhabitants, 50, 4 deaths.

Two persons visiting Laloub returned to Meskinabad. They and their mother died the sixth day. Examined at Allayabad 3 children cured, in whom convalescence began the third day by spontaneous opening of the buboes. Governor of Sinah recommended to rigorously isolate villages contaminated.

Dr. TACHDJIAN.

DJIDDAH, April 16, 1900.

First Mecca pilgrims arrived. Health Djiddah perfect. March 31, 2 new fatal cases at Yambo. Send disinfectants.

Dr. POMPOURAS.

FOREIGN STATISTICAL REPORTS.

CANADA—*Manitoba*—*Winnipeg*.—Month of April, 1900. Estimated population, 7,985. Number of deaths not reported. One death from diphtheria.

Quebec—*Sherbrooke*.—Month of April, 1900. Estimated population, 10,470. Total number of deaths, 33, including 1 from scarlet fever.